

# The Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

## War Diary

No. 83 Canadian Ordnance Workshop (Medium)  
1918 - 1919



The RCEME Heritage Archives

# Introduction

During the First World War, the Canadian Ordnance Corps had three Mobile Ordnance Workshops, which repaired and maintained the artillery and equipment of the Canadian Corps. This did not include operating and maintaining the mechanical transport (motor vehicles), which were operated by the Army Service Corps.

In the organization of the time, a light mobile workshop supported two infantry divisions, and a medium workshop supported the heavy and siege artillery in a Corps. A light workshop consisted of:

- Inspector of Ordnance Machinery (Engineer, usually a captain, but could be a lieutenant or major) - 1

- Armament Sergeant Major (Warrant Officer Class 1) - 1

- Armament Quartermaster Sergeant (Warrant Officer Class 2) - 1

- Armament Staff Sergeants (or Fitter Staff Sergeants) - 3

- Fitters - 4\*

- Turners - 3\* (lathe operators)

- Blacksmiths - 3\*

- Hammermen - 2\* (blacksmith's assistant)

- Wheelers - 4\*

- Clerks - 1

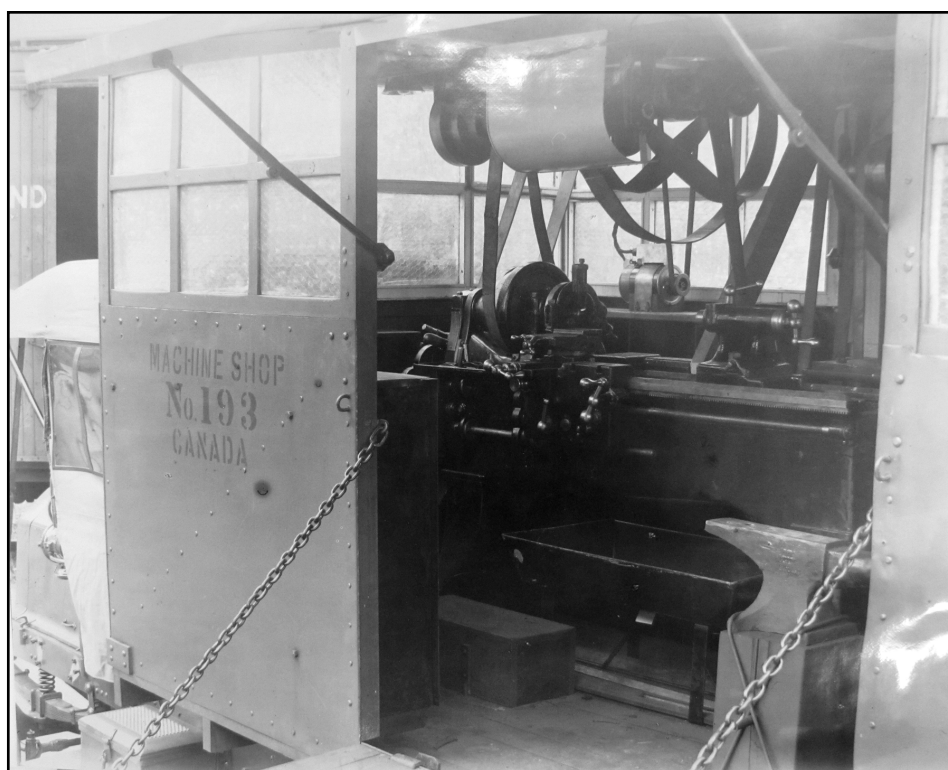
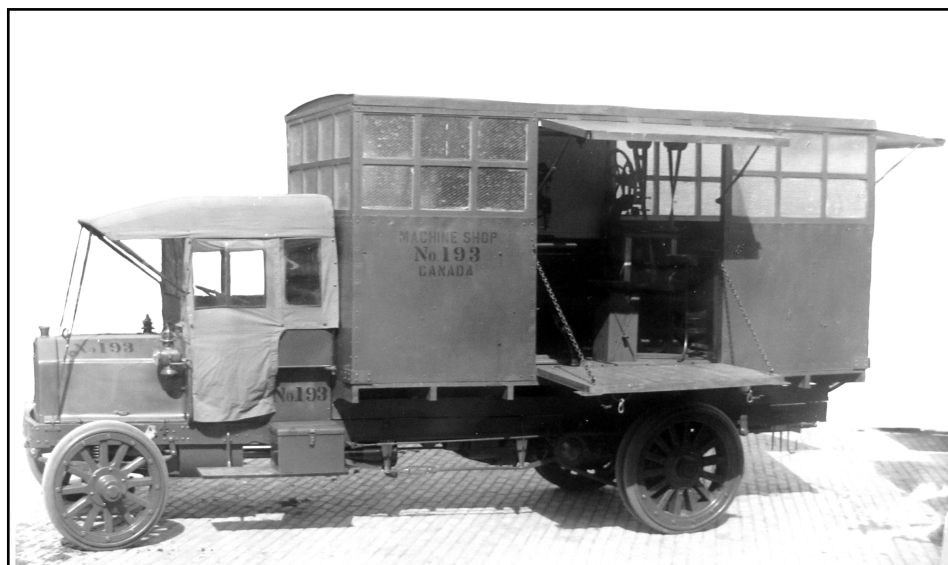
- Total - 23 all ranks

\*Of these, two would be corporals.

The first Canadian workshop, the Canadian Ordnance Travelling Workshop, was formed in Halifax in October 1915 and staffed by Permanent Force artificers. It went to Britain and on to France, where it began supporting the Canadian Corps in March 1916. Shortly after, it was renamed Number 26 Canadian Travelling Ordnance Workshop Unit. In July, it became No. 26 Canadian Mobile Ordnance Workshop (Light). It consisted of Canadian personnel under the command of a Canadian "Inspector of Ordnance Machinery", Captain A.S. Buttenshaw. The workshop was renamed No. 81 Canadian Ordnance Mobile Workshop (Light) in November 1918.

The Canadian Corps continued to expand and, in November 1916, the Imperial (British) No. 8 Mobile Ordnance Workshop (Light) began working with the Corps. In April 1917, that workshop was renamed No. 8 Canadian Mobile Ordnance Workshop (Light) and was manned with Canadian personnel. Armament Artificer Sergeant-Major H. Durling, who had been with 26 Workshop since the beginning, was commissioned from the ranks and appointed as I.O.M. and commander of the new workshop.

On 7 October 1918, No. 83 Canadian Ordnance Workshop (Medium) was formed to repair and maintain the siege artillery in the Canadian Corps. It was commanded by Lieutenant A.H. Phillips, who had also been commissioned from the ranks in No. 26 Canadian Mobile Workshop.



A Canadian-designed and manufactured machine shop lorry as supplied to the Canadian Corps.

**War Diary**

**No. 83 Canadian Ordnance Workshop  
(Medium)**

**1918 - 1919**



CONFIDENTIAL.

W A R     D I A R Y.

- O F -

no. 3 Canadian Ordnance Workshop (medium)

FROM 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.

TO 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 1918

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VOLUME

3

WAR DIARY

No. 83 Canadian Ordnance Workshop (Medium)

From 1st to 31st October, 1918.

Volume 18-10

Diary Text

3 Pages.



*Confidential*

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

*original*

# WAR DIARY for October 1918

OR

Sheet 1

(Erase heading not required.)

I.O.M. No. 8 MEDICAL ORDNANCE WORKSHOP.
No. 1
Date 31-10-18

Army Form C. 2118

*ADP 111. Lt Col.*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Riencourt	7/10/18		Authority having been received from G.H.Q. Can. Corps took over a "medium" Ord. Workshop to complete Corps establishment (medium workshops do all repairs to siege artillery equipments & inspections of siege guns in position) I had already had much experience of siege & garrison artillery during my year of service as a dist. artificer & had acted as I.O.M. of Light Workshops during absence of other I.O.M. in addition to which I spent six weeks in "qualifying course" in Jan & Feb this year at Base Workshops, Valenciennes, Calais & at H.Q. Heavy Mobile 4th Army Poperinghe. A number of skilled personnel had been gathered together & tested in readiness for new workshops chiefly from artillery & Infantry units. all personnel were to be obtained in the field.	
			Proceeded to 19 O.M.W. (Med) at Agny. 3 kilometres S of Amas & took stock of machinery & work in hand for artillery. Instructions were that I take over the Workshop equipment of 19 O.M.W. (Med) & be designated as H.Q. 80 med (Med) the personnel of H.Q. 8 medium proceeding to the Base, Calais.	
Stain les Marquion	8/10/18		Arranged for transport to move Workshop forward, as it was too far in rear to suit Canadian artillery. selected site at Stain les Marquion east of Canal du Nord. Artillery then in position from Bouillon to Sainsky Lestree 9.2 guns in action 1 kilometre to left of Workshop site. My object was always to have shop sufficiently near to the guns to render assistance quickly when all gun power is needed, & to save valuable time when called upon for inspections & divisions.	
	9/10/18		Took 6 men to new site to clear debris away, erect shedding sent 6 other men to 19 O.M.W. to pack shop equipment & load machinery on lorries. Cleared away two houses & used material to erect machine shed & stores. The men have taken enthusiastically to the forming of a new Workshop, as it has often been hinted that we could not properly assume the responsibility of heavy gun repairs, but I have perfect confidence that, given a fortnight to assemble a staff etc, we shall justify our existence in every respect.	
	10/10/18		Packing & moving shop equipment from Agny to Stain les Marquion, & erection. Enemy artillery searching for 9.2 guns, dropped two shells in our site, occasioning several hours work filling in with debris from houses. Erected engine & placed lathe & other machine in place & wired up machinery & motors for forges. Difficultly now experienced in getting the men intended for transfer to this Workshop, back from their units, where they had returned after testing. My own commission had not yet appeared and I had no Sgt Major & only N.C.O. to assist. Ration were begged to till us over for our first four days.	



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original  
Sheet 2  
WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
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I.O.M.,  
No. 8 MEDIUM  
ORDNANCE WORKSHOP.  
No. 1  
Date 31/10/18

Army Form C. 2118.

amplified Lt C.O.P.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
James to Marquies	11/10/18		Ran machinery for trial. 3.10 PM Can Corps called, & A.D.O.S. Can Corps. First equipment arrived 9.2 MK II Howitzer from 5th C.B.B. Condemned piece for surface coach.	amp
"	12/10/18		Three 6-26 cwt Hows from 179 S.B. Condemned two for stripped lands. Visited Can Corps.	amp
"	13/10/18		Inspected 108 S.B. at Gray's Dyer. Benefit of having shop near gun apparent now. This suggested inspection completed, back at Workshop before 8.30 am. Ordered one Howitzer of this Bty in to shop for overhaul & condemned piece for stripping of rifling.	amp
"	14/10/18		6-26 cwt How in from 142 S.B. for overhaul { arrangements made to test watchmakers for ditto 139 S.B. } Corps & select 10 for Corps HQ & Divisions.	amp
"	15/10/18		8" How MK VII from 36 S.B. in for overhaul. Condemned carriage beyond repair in reasonable time, sent it to No 1 Heavy mobile to complete repairs & return it to Gun Park stock unit to draw new.	amp
"	16/10/18		Proceeded to Gun Park, Loney, & 19.0 AM. now in occupation of original No 8 medium site at Oldham.	amp
"	17/10/18		6-26 Hows in from 84 S.B. & from 297 S.B. for overhaul.	amp
"	18/10/18		6-26 cwt How in from 9th S.B. for overhaul. Condemned piece for stripped lands. A.D.O.S. Can Corps called.	amp
"	19/10/18		6 inch Howitzer in from 303 S.B. & 75 S.B. (S.A.H.A.) for overhaul. Visited No 8 & 62 Light Workshop.	amp
"	20/10/18		Inspected 6 inch MK XIX gun of 520 S.B. one at Lilar Farm near Combray Rd. one at Alconet. Also at Avenue to Lilar. Erected a recuperation building & fitted up labour saving devices for handling recuperators, & charging.	amp
"	21/10/18		6-26 cwt How in from 84 S.B. for overhaul.	amp
"	22/10/18		Two ditto 74 S.B. S.A.H.A. One condemned for stripping of lands.	amp
"	23/10/18		Visited S.I.O.M. at Beant St Quentin & 6" MK XIX Bty at Hendicourt. C.I.O.M. 1st Army called & was extremely pleased & satisfied with our site & layout of machinery, also commended our system.	amp

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Sheet 3

Original

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# WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

I.O.M. No. 8 MEDIUM ORDNANCE WORKSHOP.
No. 1
Date 31/10/18

Army Form C. 2118.

A. H. H. P.

Lt.  
C.O.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Saint-les-Marguerites	21/10/18		New 9.2 M.K. II piece arrived for 5 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. Two 9.2 B.M.s overhauled.	
"	22/10/18		Proceeded to N° 8 Light Workshop at Abacon & located site for 8. medium in Sugar Refinery there.	APP
"	23/10/18		Visited S.I.O.M. at Hornaing. A.D.O.S. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Corps called. 10 Watchmakers tested. 6 passed. 3 failed & 1 held as an improver.	
"	23/10/18		Commenced the move to Abacon. 6 inch M.K. XIX from 393 S.B. Piece condemned. muzzled near	APP
"	24/10/18		A.D.O.S. Can. Corps called. Two Platforms firing in for overhaul for 4 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B.	
"	24/10/18		8" How carriage for 36 S.B. came from Gun Park. Difficultly experienced in getting work completed in one site & commenced in a new site, because of non-arrival of tools.	APP
Abacon.	24/10/18		Sufficient men left behind with engine & pump & derrick to complete outstanding guns.	APP
"	25/10/18		Inspected 10 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. & measured Howitzers. 6-26 out How in from 72 S.B. 3 A.H.A. for overhaul.	APP
"	26/10/18		move completed & all men & machinery at Abacon. 6-26 out How in from 337 S.B. for overhaul.	APP
"	27/10/18		Inspected 11 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. & measured Howitzers. 6-26 out How in from 2 <sup>nd</sup> C.S.B. Condemned carriage for	APP
"	28/10/18		Inspected 12 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. — — — — — also 8 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. 8" How. M.K. VII.	APP
"	29/10/18		6-26 out How in from 303 S.B. Visited S.I.O.M. at Raismes. Inspected 6" B.T. gun of 393 S.B.	APP
"	30/10/18		C.I.O.M. called. new 8" How M.K. VII carriage arrived from Gun Park for 8 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B.	
"	30/10/18		6-26 out How in from 7 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. Piece condemned, for stripped rifling.	APP
"	31/10/18		6-26 out How in from 195 S.B. Unable to get 4 muzzles from Gun Park. Managed to get gun out in time limit by going around Batteries for spare parts & packings.	APP



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W L R D I A R Y

- O F -

No 83 Canadian Ordnance Workshop (medium)

FROM 1<sup>st</sup> Oct Nov. TO 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 1918

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VOLUME 2

3.

WAR DIARY

No. 63 Canadian Ordnance Workshop (Medium)

From 1st to 30th November, 1918.

Volume 10-11

Diary Text

3 Pages.



Confidential

original sheet 1

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

I.O.M. No. 850000 ORDNANCE WORKSHOP.
No. ....
Date 30/11/18

Army Form C. 2118.

arr. Liff. Lt. C.O.C.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Abasco.	1/11/18		Visited N. 8. Light Shop at Herin and C.C.H.A. at Bellone.	
—	2/11/18		Inspected 3 <sup>rd</sup> C.S.B. near Herin. A.D.O.S. Can. Corps called. 6 more watchmakers to come in for testing.	arr
—	3/11/18		6-26 cont How in from 6. C.S.B. Piece condemned. Inspected 7 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. near Herin.	arr
—	4/11/18		Completed inspection of 7 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. Impossible to complete inspection of 9 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. on account of S.O.S.	arr
—	5/11/18		Visited Can. Corps. H.Q. & Amie Railhead to arrange for truck. 6-26 cont How in from 11 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. overhaul.	arr
—	6/11/18		6-26 cont How in from 195 S.B. Piece condemned. Visited 1 <sup>st</sup> Army H.Q. & C.I.O.M.	
—	7/11/18		Inspected 9 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. at Valenciennes. Visited S.I.O.M. at Raimes, & C.C.H.A. at Bellone	arr
—	8/11/18		6-26 cont in from 303 S.B. Piece condemned. At Denain to Heavy Mobile. Inspected 8 <sup>th</sup> How of P.C.S.B.	arr
—	9/11/18		in response to urgent wire. Ordered gun to continue firing. Reported action to S.I.O.M. Raimes	arr
—	10/11/18		all condemned pieces to Railhead 5. 6-26 cont piece. 1 6-26 cont carriage. 1. 8" M.K.VII carriage	arr
—	11/11/18		S.I.O.M. called. Shop routine	
—	12/11/18		Looking for new site at Onnain. Quarouble & vicinity. Shop routine	arr
—	13/11/18		Condemned 6-26 cont How. of 2 <sup>nd</sup> C.S.B. Looked for site in Valenciennes. Visited A.D.O.S. Can. Corps.	arr
—	14/11/18		Selected site in Guineusein just over Belgian border on main main road. Saw T.M. 2nd	arr
—	15/11/18		reserved accommodation for billets & machine shop.	
—	16/11/18		Sent 6-26 cont of 12 <sup>th</sup> S.B. to Heavy Mobile to clear shop arranged for lorries & units.	
—	17/11/18		Commenced move. all watchmakers now tested & distributed to Division & Corp. troops.	
—	18/11/18		9.2" How in from 96 S.B. overhaul. 6 lorries reported for move.	arr
—	19/11/18		Visited Conf. Signal. Paymaster. & M.T. Workshops.	



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*Original*

*Sheet 2*

# WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

I.O.N. No. 8 DEPT ORDNANCE WORKSHOP.
No. ....
Date 30-11-19

Army Form C. 2118.

*artlett Lt C.O.C.*

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Abasco (France)	11/11/18		Moving shop. Visited C.C.H.A. at Mons & H <sup>2</sup> 8 & 26 Workshop Light	<i>art</i>
Quivrain (Belgium)	12/11/18		move completed except for completion of 3. 6-26 Hous. waiting new piece from G.P.	<i>art</i>
---	13/11/18		Visited Gun Park about 6 Howitzers arranged to draw these from SOMAIN to Abasco.	<i>art</i>
---	14/11/18		Completed mounting of Hous & wired for F.W.D.s from 2 <sup>nd</sup> C.S.B. & 303 & 337 S.B. to collect.	<i>art</i>
---	15/11/18		Old site cleared up. Visited Amie to 1 <sup>st</sup> Army & Bouchain for Tyre Press, 1 lorry under repair. Light car under repair also. H <sup>2</sup> 8 medium now becomes 83 Can. O.M.W. (medium) like G.R.O.	<i>art</i>
---	16/11/18		To A.D.O.S. Can Corps & Camp Commandant C.C. Troops Valenciennes & S.M.T.O.	<i>art</i>
---	17/11/18		Received instructions to be ready to proceed with Corps to enemy territory. C.I.O.M. called.	<i>art</i>
---	18/11/18		Two 9.2" Hous arrived with broken transporting wagons. Sent one to Hy mobile Demain and repaired the other one in shop.	<i>art</i>
---	19/11/18		Overhauling shop machinery. 9.2" completed & wired. Writing long report for D.D.S. covering the whole field of the mechanical Engineering branch of the A.O.D. during 4 years of war.	<i>art</i>
---	20/11/18		Visited Ramme M.T. Workshop & Supply Col. for actions & mail. S.I.O.M. Can. Corps called.	<i>art</i>
---	21/11/18		Visited Mons to C.C.H.A. T.O.P. section. A.D.O.S. & Camp Commandant & completed writing reports.	<i>art</i>

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sheet 3

# WAR DIARY

07

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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I.O.M.  
No. 85  
ORDNANCE WORKSHOP.

No. 30/11/18

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Quivrain	22/11/18		Ordered to move to Mons. Packed lorries at noon, arrived at Mons unpacked & returned lorries to Colonne at 10.30 pm.	AMP
			Inspected 9.2" Hovs of 1 <sup>st</sup> C.S.B. complete inspection of carriages, beds & transporting wagon in accordance with D.O.S. letter circulated 16.10.18	AMP
MONS.	23/11/18		Inspected 9.2" Hovs & equipment of 96 S.B. at Quivrain } & forwarded reports to 1 <sup>st</sup> Army. — — — — — 46 S.B. — — — — —	AMP
— — —	24/11/18		Inspected 8" Hovs MK VI of 4 <sup>th</sup> C.S.B. Bath Light shop now packed for moving	AMP
— — —	25/11/18		Lorries arrived necessary to send to Base Power saw & generator to lighten load.	AMP
— — —	26/11/18		Left Mons 8 am. Picked up ration en route. Passed Charleroi midday. One lorry fouled abandoned german lorry 3 kilometres west of NAMUR & delayed us 2 hours. All lorries in NAMUR by 9 pm.	AMP
NAMUR.	27/11/18		Clearing site. Billeting men, overhauling lorries & car. Wired location to all concerned.	AMP
— — —	28/11/18		General fatigues 60 Pdr came in for repair to enable it to proceed along.	AMP
— — —	29/11/18		20 Hvy. Can Corps H.Q. to see A.D.O.S. Can Corps. & Field Cashier Difficulty in obtaining rations. None have been delivered for 5 days. Sent a borrowed lorry to R.S.O. Taminier to get something to carry on with.	AMP
— — —	30/11/18		Paid Unit. United Army Signals & C.C.H.A. Lorries now taken away by 2 M.T.O. apparently we shall soon be stranded in NAMUR. with neither food nor petrol to get away to top	AMP



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W A R D I A R Y O F

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83<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Ordnance Mobile Workshop CANADIAN DIVISION.

FROM 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1918 TO 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1918

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VOLUME

3

3.

WAR DIARY

83rd Canadian Ordnance Mobile Workshop,

From 1st to 31st December, 1918.

Volume 18-12

Diary Text

3 Pages.



Confidential.

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Original

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

I.O.M.  
No. 8 MEDIUM  
ORDNANCE WORKSHOP.

No. 31-12-18

Army Form C. 2118.

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Sheet 1.

Adm Phillips Lt C.O.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NAMUR.	1/12/18.		Inspected 1 <sup>st</sup> Can H.B. & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Can H.B. (60 Pdrs) for Army return. At Namur. Selected site for Workshop at MOLDAVE 12 Kilometres beyond HUY.	arr
"	2/12/18		Visited K. type press at Fleureux & sent all defective lorry wheels there for retyring. Inspected 8 <sup>th</sup> Can. Siege Bty. 8" Howitzers MK III on HUY Road.	arr
"	3/12/18		Wired S.M.T.O. for lorries to move shop. Abandoned idea of stopping at MOLDAVE.	arr.
"	4/12/18		Located Supply Col. & sent for rations.	arr
"	5/12/18		Standing by: waiting for lorries to move forward to Corps.	arr
"	6/12/18		Ditto. Difficulty in obtaining rations, oil, & petrol experienced.	arr
"	7/12/18		Ditto. Arranged sports for personnel. & played football matches.	arr
"	8/12/18		Ditto. against Belgian civilian teams at NAMUR. Citadel grounds.	arr.
"	9/12/18		It was decided to go forward with half personnel of the 3 Workshops with machine shop lorries, & to make for Stavelot, the last known location of Corps Supply Col., about 90 kilometres.	arr
AWAILE.			Parked at AWAILE. except two machine lorries of No. 82 Shop one of which broke down at ROTHEUX. magnificent scenery, but bad roads encountered along the valley of the L'OUETHE.	arr
	10/12/18		sent remaining lorries forward to Stavelot. Returned in light car to pick up the two machine lorries left behind. Petrol ran short before reaching Stavelot, & it was necessary to drain some from those lorries with largest carrying capacity, to get remainder along. Found Supply Col. had left Stavelot 3 days ago, & there was no R.S.O. there.	
VILLE DE BOIS.			went to TROIS PONTS. & waited till 6pm to draw rations & petrol from R.S.O. there. Proceeded in light car along road to Versalm. to find suitable place to park lorries & billet men. Returned & brought convoy along to Ville de Bois east of Versalm at 9pm.	



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original  
Sheet. 2

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

I.O.M.,  
No. 83 MEDIUM  
ORDNANCE WORKSHOP.

Army Form C. 2118.

No. ....

Date 31-12-18

Dr Phillips Lt  
C.O.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLE de Bois	11/12/18		Proceeded on route through St VITH & reached BLANKENHEIM 4 pm. One lorry left behind near St Vith with broken shaft coupling. No room at Blankenheim for billets. Commanded railway station of Frielegen 4 kilometres from Blankenheim for park & billets.	aap
FRIELEGEN STATION.	12/12/18		Remaining 3 lorries arrived. Proceeded in car to Schleiden to find Corps H.Q. Corps had moved previous day to Bonn. Went on to Bonn 60 kilometres from Schleiden. Returned via Euskirchen & Münstereifel to Blankenheim. Troops held concert in waiting room of station.	aap
BONN.	14/12/18		All lorries reached Bonn & were parked in school yard, personnel billeted in school class-rooms S.I.O.M. going on leave.	aap
"	15/12/18		Cleaning up & unloading lorries. Two light shops running for light repairs. Visited A.D.O.S. & Field Cashier. Paid Rent.	aap
"	16/12/18		Visited C.C.H.A. G.O.C. under all Siege equipments overhauled, & painted. Batteries intend moving over river Rhine shortly, & shops required to be near them. Accordingly searched country within the Corps limit for suitable Workshop sites for 3 Workshops during the winter. Great difficulty experienced with Burgomeisters, & Inf. Bde. occupying areas, most accommodation being already taken.	aap
"	18/12/18		Moved 82 Workshop to BEUEL & No 11 Workshop to SIEBURG having made arrangements with factory directors to enlarge doorways, & carry out alterations to suit the handling of guns.	aap
"	19/12/18		Siege guns not to cross Rhine. Necessary to find site for this Workshop (No 83 Medium) in BONN. Inspected 7 different factories with indifferent results. Instructions are that normal life of civilians must not be interfered with, if avoidable. Selected small yard & part of workshop & requisitioned material & labour to make it suitable for the work required of this Unit during the coming month.	aap
"	20/12/18			



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*Original.*

*Sheet 3.*

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

I.O.M.,  
No. 8 MEDIUM  
ORDNANCE WORKSHOP.

Army Form C. 2118.

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No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date *31-12-18.*

*arrhipp Lt  
C.O.C.*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BONN.	21-12-18		Moved 83 into Sartoryside & fixed up machinery in Workshop. Local electric power not suitable for our shop motor. Necessary to run other engine.	<i>APP</i>
— " —	22/12/18		spent 6 hours finding billets for personnel. Capt Durbin, 12th Pz Workshop returned from leave. Handed over duties of S.I.O.M. Can Corps to him & 81 & 82 Workshops	<i>APP</i>
— " —	23/12/18		spent much time at City Hall & Requisition Office & in going rounds to various firms to draw the material requisitioned. Visited C.C.H.A. & A.D.O.S. Can Corps.	<i>APP</i>
— " —	24/12/18		Two 6 inch 26 cwt Howitzers arrived from 2nd Can Siege Bty. Visited Field Cashier & paid Unit. arranged with A.P.M. Bonn to take room in hotel for Unit's Xmas dinner. with turkeys & puddings arrived in time.	<i>APP</i>
— " —	25/12/18		Xmas Day. Dinner served at 2.30, of roast mutton, & mince puddings, personnel afterwards attending performance of 8 concert party at Stadt Theatre.	<i>APP</i>
— " —	26-12-18		One 6-26 cwt How. of 195 S.B. & one of 280 S.B. 29.9. arrived. Also one How from 6th Can Siege Bty. Routine of shop in usual running order. Inspected Howitzers of 195 & 303 S.B. 29.9.	<i>APP</i>
— " —	27/12/18		Staff of C.C.H.A. called at shop. Visited C.I.O.M. 2nd Army for instructions. Visited 81 & 82 Light Workshops.	<i>APP</i>
— " —	28/12/18		O.C. 280 S.B. called at shop. A.D.O.S. called. No clerk, cook, or batman left now.	<i>APP</i>
— " —	29/12/18		Workshop routine. Dismissed men at 11.30 am for bathing & recreation, being Sunday.	<i>APP</i>
— " —	30/12/18		Inspected 2nd Can Siege Bty 6" Hows. attended Requisition Office to settle question of dispute over material supplied for buildings. Called at Camp Command in connection with leaves for men of Unit.	<i>APP</i>
— " —	31/12/18		Inspected 6th Can Siege Bty at Mehlum for Army returns. Information points to Can. Corps leaving area soon. Have forwarded suggestion that this Workshop might hand over to relieving Workshop to avoid transport of so much heavy machinery. C.C.H.A. 2nd Army phoned the intended visit. Reported on condition of gun & carriage. as 2nd Army from purpose of condemnation.	<i>APP</i>

C O N F I D E N T I A L

T A B L E D I A R Y

- O F -

No 33 Canadian Ordnance mobile workshop

FROM 1<sup>st</sup> Jan TO 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 1919

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VOLUME

4



WAR DIARY

No. 83 Canadian Ordnance Mobile Workshop,

From 1st to 21st January, 1919.

Volume 19-1

Diary Text

3 Pages

Confidential.

# SHEET. I. WAR DIARY

I.O.M.,  
No. 88 MEDIUM  
CANADIAN ORDNANCE  
WORKSHOP.

No. ....  
Date 31-1-29

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

Original

(Erase heading not required.)

at Philipps St. C.O.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BONN. Germany.	1/1/19		Shop worked till noon, & were given half days holiday for New Year. Rhine has risen 3 ft. necessitating 6 Howitzer Batteries being withdrawn from bank.	amp
" "	2/1/19		Chief I.M. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army visited Workshop & was pleased with the work being done & with the building being erected by German labour & material while gun work was proceeding.	amp
" "	3/1/19		Shop Routine. Considerable trouble with Requisition Orders etc. & the prompt delivery of material requisitioned. Have found it necessary to be very firm with German tradespeople.	amp
" "	4/1/19		Visited 204 <sup>th</sup> Siege Bty for inspection of guns & Carriages at Godesberg.	amp
" "	5/1/19		Visited 8 <sup>th</sup> Can S. Bty. for inspection & special report on 8" How. firing Platforms at Mellen.	amp
" "	6-1-19		Visited 280 <sup>th</sup> Siege Bty for inspection of guns & Carriages. One Howitzer condemned for stripping of lands. A.D.O.S. Cdn Corps. visited Workshop. Workshop Routine & painting of Siege Equipment.	amp
" "	7/1/19		now all service color.	
" "	7/1/19		Three 6"-26 cwt Hows completed & removed. Commenced stock taking of Workshop equipment, stores, & tools.	amp
" "	8/1/19		Shop Routine till noon. gave men half day holiday to visit Cologne.	amp
" "	9-1-19		Building of closed in shop still proceeding, but nearly finished. Repairs to Artillery equipment going on satisfactorily.	amp
" "	10/1/19		Two 6"-26 cwt Howitzer carriage arrived from Base & one new 6"-26 cwt Howitzer. Good percentage of men now getting leave. Health of men very good.	amp



Confidential.

SHEET 2.  
WAR DIARY

I.O.M.  
No. 88 MEDIUM  
CANADIAN ORDNANCE  
WORKSHOP.  
No. ....  
Date 31-1-19

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

Original.

(Erase heading not required.)

arrphlpp. Lt C.O.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BONN. Germany.	11-1-19		Condemned Howitzer Car. brought in from Bty & piece changed over to new carriage Staff Capt C.C.H.A. called to make further arrangements about overhead of guns & carriage Artillery desire to go against G.R.O. & have brass work polished.	AMP
"	12-1-19		Shop Routine. Office work still heavy owing to numerous "Returns" being required C.I.O.M. visited Workshop. Extremely satisfied with work done.	AMP
"	13-1-19		Workshop Routine.	AMP
"	14-1-19		A.D.O.S. Cde Corps instructs that 44 working hours per week only are to be worked gone men time off after noon today.	AMP
"	15-1-19		No more guns to be accepted for repairs. All work in hand to be completed by 1-1-19 All stores etc. checked & machinery to be cleaned & greased.	AMP
"	16-1-19		Workshop Routine. Considerable number of Instruments come in for repair keeping (watch-maker) P.F. Artificer fully employed.	AMP
"	17-1-19		Staff Capt C.C.H.A. calls in connection with condition of siege equipments to be handed over to relieving Corps Heavy Artillery.	AMP
"	18-1-19		Finishing up all outstanding work & cleaning machinery. Completed work & equipments being removed by Units.	AMP
"	19-1-19		All stores checked & in readiness to hand over. Men given baths & ready to travel.	AMP
"	20-1-19			

Confidential

# SHEET 3. WAR DIARY

LCM.  
No. 82 MEDIAN  
CANADIAN ORDNANCE  
WORKSHOP.  
Date 31-1-19

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

Original.

(Erase heading not required.)

ad Philp. Lt C.O.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BONN. Germany.	21-1-19		Standing by, awaiting orders. Last gun in Workshop collected by Unit concerned.	AMP
"	22-1-19		Received wire from C.I.O.M. 4th Army to send representative to "take over" from 25.0.M. (med) at "Andenne", between Huy & Namur. Men allowed off, after fatigues each day, to attend games, etc., till definite instructions to move received from Army.	AMP
"	23-1-19		C.I.O.M. 2nd Army called. & was satisfied that everything was ready for transfer.	AMP
"	24-1-19		Sent Q.M.S. & a Sgt to 25.0.M. "Andenne". Q.M.S. from 25.0.M. arrived at Bonn to take over.	AMP
"	25-1-19		C.I.O.M. called. Equipment of Workshop handed over in detail according to M.S.T.	AMP
"	26-1-19		Personnel of 25.0.M. arrived & were billeted. It was very evident that the men had created a very favorable impression in the minds of the Germans with whom they were billeted, & the latter seem to have learnt a great deal about the war & its conduct of which they were unaware.	AMP
"	27-1-19		Received instructions to proceed to Cologne & thence by train to Andenne. Luggage was not exchanged so went by road with office gear & surplus kit.	AMP
ANDEENNE	27-1-19		arrive "Andenne". Found Workshop in most unsuitable site, leaking roofs & machinery not erected properly. Stores in disgraceful condition & lying in the mud. Billeted men.	AMP
"	29-1-19		Five 6-26 out Hous in hand for overhaul & one on the way to shop. Decided to first arrange engine & machinery in order & get the shop & stores properly laid out before starting work.	AMP
"	30-1-19		Cold weather makes it impossible to work on guns, except with intervals for the men to get warmed. Have enquired of R.E. for material to make buildings weather-proof but none available. Decided to take the H.C.O. & men out for short marches for exercise & to only work 1 1/2 hours in mornings & 1 1/2 hours in afternoons, till weather gets milder.	AMP
"	31-1-19		Workshop Routine proceeding as modified. One 8" How. Platform & one 6-26 out How completed sent out for application made to Educational Officer for Chemistry course for member of personnel. Men working well.	AMP



C O N F I D E N T I A L .

W A R     D I A R Y .

- O F -

83. Canadian Ordnance Workshop (Medium)  
FROM 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. TO 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1919.

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VOLUME

5

2.

WAR DIARY

83rd Canadian Ordnance Workshop (Medium)

From 1st to 28th February, 1919.

Volume 19-2

Diary Text

2 Pages.



Confidential

Sheet No 1

WAR DIARY

OR

I.O.M.  
No. 83 MEDIUM  
CANADIAN ORDNANCE  
WORKSHOP.

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oc. 83 Com. 14 (Continued)  
Army Form C 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs. Part II.  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

Original

(Erase heading not required.)

No. 28-2-19  
Date

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANDENNE BELGIUM.	1-2-19		Workshop Routine. One 8" Howitzer completed & wired out.	ADP
"	2-2-19		Difficulty in obtaining gun spares & supplies. Sent round to several siege batteries & eventually obtained a supply of buffer oil to enable work to proceed.	ADP
"	3-2-19		Only office work attended to today being Sunday. Drivers from 25. O.M.W. med. arrived from BONN. to take over lorries & return to BONN. One 6-26 cent Howitzer completed & removed by Battery.	ADP
"	4-2-19		Camps H.Q. is 45 Kilometres distant at JODOIGNE. necessitating journey weekly.	ADP
"	5-2-19		much correspondence on Demobilization & necessary forms to complete.	ADP
"	6-2-19		One 8" Howitzer Platform firing finished & removed by Battery. Trouble experienced in getting coal for forges & cookhouse; overcome by tact & importunity.	ADP
"	7-2-19		Very cold weather which has made the Workshop impossible, as the roof & sides are in bad condition. Decide that the exigencies of the service do not at present necessitate risking men's health, till the weather improves. Only working on such work as can be done under dry & reasonably warm conditions.	ADP
"	8-2-19		The two Light Workshops 81 & 82 arrived from BONN. 4-2-19 & have been accommodated in this yard whilst finding suitable sites elsewhere, are now moved into position.	ADP
"	9-2-19		Camp Council calling for ammunition. Nominal Rolls etc. in connection with demobilization, which necessitates interviewing each man separately & filling up Questionnaires.	ADP
"	10-2-19		Two 6-26 cent Howitzers completed by shop working hard for 3 hours each day. many Imperial Units pass along this Road on the way to Andenne Station & demobilization. Only office work. Accident with Peerless lorry. obtained permission to take parts from German lorry to repair our own.	ADP



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Sheet No 2  
WAR DIARY

I.O.M.,  
No. 83 MEDIUM  
CANADIAN ORDNANCE  
WORKSHOP.

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Rega, Part II.  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

Original

(Erase heading not required.)

No. 2-2-19

Dr Philip. Lint.  
C. 83 Cdn O. & W. (Med)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANDENNE. BELGIUM.	11-2-19.		Section I.O.M. called with regard to overhaul of Artillery equipments & requires a biweekly report on modifications carried out to guns & carriages.	ADP
"	12-2-19		Sent all dial sights & instruments to No 5 Heavy Mobile CHARLEROI by order. C.I.O.M. & 4 <sup>th</sup> Army.	ADP
"	13-2-19.		Can. Field Artillery have commenced to land in gun & equipment. Am instructed to apply qualified A.C.O.'s for inspection duty with Divul. and officers & Corps Troops.	ADP
"	14-2-19		C.I.O.M. called with ref. to matters, this shop & 25 O. & W. (Med) at BONN. He informs me that office of Section I.O.M. will be closed forthwith. & that there is no desire to work Canadian Workshops right up till the time of demobilization. We shall take up spot if work slackens off.	ADP
"	15-2-19		Visited Corps H.Q. Workshop Routine. Am informed that my application, made in Jan. for service in Belgium has been forwarded.	ADP
"	16-2-19		Three 4.5 Howitzers in for overhaul & one 18 Pdr from 66 Div. Art.	ADP
"	17-2-19		Visited 4 <sup>th</sup> Army H.Q. NAMUR. & Heavy Mobile, CHARLEROI.	ADP
"	18-2-19		Workshop Routine. Improving & manufacturing parts for carriages as am not allowed to indent there now.	ADP
"	19-2-19		"	ADP
"	20-2-19		A.D.O.S. Can. Corps called. H.C.O.'s & men carried out successful Whit drive, attended as umpire.	ADP
"	21-2-19		4 <sup>th</sup> Army called Ford car in to 4 <sup>th</sup> Army Reserve Park. Am now unable to get to Corps or Army except by borrowing from other Units.	ADP
"	22-2-19		Workshop & Office Routine. Baseball match against 82 Cdn O. & W. (L) This Unit lost.	ADP
"	23-2-19		Sunday " " Visited 81 Cdn O. & W. (L) at NAMECHE.	ADP
"	24-2-19		Sent 4.5 Howitzers to 81 Workshop. Played baseball against 82 Workshop. (This Unit won)	ADP
"	25-2-19		Workshop routine. One 18 Pdr completed & removed. Am arranging for H.C.O.'s men to get short leave to BRUSSELS & LIEGE in turn.	ADP
"	26-2-19		Visited Corps H.Q. A.D.O.S. & R.A. Can Corps.	ADP
"	27-2-19		Workshop Routine. Made application for commission in P.F. of Canada in accordance with C.R.O. 2075.	ADP
"	28-2-19		Work has been easy in work. Four men exhausted sick to England. Received fair share of leave for men. C.I.O.M. & 4 <sup>th</sup> Army. Am arranging to carry out inspection of 24 gun for Ordnance Dept.	ADP



C O N F I D E N T I A L .

J A R D I A R Y .

- O F -

No 83 Canadian Ordnance mobile workshop

from 1<sup>st</sup> march to 31<sup>st</sup> march 1919

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VOLUME 6

2.

WAR DIARY

No. 83 Canadian Ordnance Mobile Workshop,

From 1st to 31st March, 1919.

Volume 19-3

Diary Text

2 Pages.



Sheet I

*Original*  
**WAR DIARY**

OT

## ~~REFERENCE~~ SUMMARY

(Erass heading not required.)

**I.O.M.,  
No. 83 MEDIUM  
CANADIAN ORDNANCE  
WORKSHOP.**

Army Form C. 2118.

Dorchester  
Sept. 20

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANDENNE BELGIUM	1-3-19		Visited Field Cashier & A.D.O.S. Canadian Corps. Shop Routine.	ADP
	2-3-19		Sunday. Shop worked all day on guns to be finished at once for 16 Divisional Artillery.	ADP
	3-3-19		Sent lorry to No 5 Heavy Mob. Workshop for air bottles. Played baseball against 82 Workshop.	ADP
	4-3-19		Workshop Routine	ADP
	5-3-19		going through all correspondence & records & arranging some for despatch to Record Office.	ADP
	6-3-19		overhauling shop machinery & Petter oil engine.	ADP
	7-3-19		— " — " —	ADP
	8-3-19		— " — " —	ADP
	9-3-19		— " — " — Sent two men for discharge in England.	ADP
	10-3-19		Visited 81 Cdr. O. & W. (L) to go through Gun Inspection Reports to answer enquiry from D.O.S. G.H.Q. arranged for personnel to have 3 days leave in BRUSSELS in rotation.	ADP
	11-3-19		Visited Can. Corps H.Q. A.D.O.S. Field Cashier, & Camp Commandant. Received instruction to take over duties as I.O.M. to Commission dealing with equipment of 66 Div. in accordance with G.R.O. this Div. being returned to England at Cadre strength with equipment.	ADP
	12-3-19		Visited Can. Corps Heavy Artillery. arranged for inspection of siege equipment being landed in to 66 Div.	ADP
	13-3-19		Visited A.D.O.S. Can. Corps. & D.A.D.O.S. 1st Can. Div. at HUY. Sent one man for discharge in England.	ADP
	14-3-19		Inspected 11/ A.F.P. Bde. (LAHORES) proceeding to England. Proceeded to 4th Army A in connection with a man desiring to marry French subject & to get necessary papers. Capt Durling proceeded on leave. Took over command of 81 & 82 Workshops.	ADP
	15-3-19		Said men proceeding on leave. Weekly returns from all Workshops.	ADP
	16-3-19		Sunday. Office routine morning only.	ADP
	17-3-19		To Can. Corps H.Q. Camp Commandant. A.D.O.S. & to draw pay for units.	ADP

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Sheet II. Original  
WAR DIARY

I.O.M.  
No. 83 MEDIUM  
CANADIAN ORDNANCE  
WORKSHOP.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

31-3-19

Ed Phillips, Lieut.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANDENNE	18-3-19		Third personnel of 83 med. & 82 Light Workshops	DWP
BELGIUM	19-3-19		sent lorry with all surplus & expendable stores to No 5 ord. mobile Workshop (Heavy) Chelmsford	DWP
	20-3-19		Finishing up pay accounts & to Field Cashier with closing out statement, end of financial year.	DWP
	21-3-19		Took up question of an 18 Pdr piece which army wish traced. Went through records of the 3 shops & sent away records from 81 to Record Office London.	DWP
	22-3-19		Office routine at ANDENNE & NEMECHE.	DWP
	23-3-19		Carried out small jobs for C.C.H.A. who leave on 24-3-19. for England.	DWP
	24-3-19		Called at H.Q. of 23rd Bde R.G.A. in reference to inspection of gun & carriage which they are to take to Germany. Arranged to exchange a Wagon Telephone for the Bde. R.G.	DWP
	25-3-19		Inspecting guns & carriages of 242, 319 & 263. Siege Batteries. R.G.A. at LANDENNE. HENBION & PETIT WARET. Much snow & extremely cold for wearing guns.	DWP
	26-3-19		Office Routine. & visited 81 Workshop at NEMECHE. Have received generous allotment of leave to England & Paris.	DWP
	27-3-19		Assisting Corps Troop Ordnance in making up complete mob. Stores for three 6" How. Bty.	DWP
	28-3-19		To A.D.O.S. Can. Corps in reference to moving from present site to allow civilian to restart work	DWP
	29-3-19		To 81 Cdr. I.M.W. (L) to despatch one man for discharge in England.	DWP
	30-3-19		sent two H.C.O.s to England for duty with A.P.M. Bromslett. Received instruction that machinery of this Unit is to be handed in to I.O.S. at HUY.	DWP
	31-3-19		Visited German salvage dump at CINEY to examine captured 18 Pdr gun there which it was considered unsafe to put on Railway. Obstruction in base proved to be dummy German shell & not a trap as was suspected. Police from A.P.M. Can. Corps called & did identification parade. Have one man under arrest & one sent to smaller base on being under suspicion for conspiracy in robbery from Can. Corps Laundry. Work has been heavy the month for officers due being no clerks available & approx 20% of personnel on leave.	DWP

CONFIDENTIAL

J A R D I A R Y

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--- OF ---

No 83 Canadian Ordnance Workshop ~~SECTION~~ DIVISION.

FROM 1<sup>st</sup> April TO 30<sup>th</sup> April 1919

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VOLUME 7

CENTRAL REGISTRY

SUBJECT AND OFFICE OF ORIGIN



WAR DIARY

No. 83 Canadian Ordnance Mobile Workshop,

From 1st to 30th April, 1919.

Volume 19-4

Diary Text

1 Page.

*Confidential*

*original*  
WAR DIARY  
OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Brass heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2113.

*Dr. Liff Lt*  
*OT 83 Ch. O. M. (C)*

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Reg. Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. This page will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUDENNE BELGIAN	1-4-19		arranged for seats at HAMOR theatre & took Personnel of these Workshops to see R.E. production.	<i>ART</i>
	2-4-19		Visited Corps HQ. JODOIGNE. A.D.S. Field Kitchen. Camp Commandant.	
	3-4-19		Paid Personnel of 81. 82 & 83 Workshops.	
	4-4-19		Inspecting equipment of 17th Bde R.G.A.	<i>ART</i>
	5-4-19		Loaded in two lorry loads of Workshop equipment to Imperial I.C.S. at HUY.	<i>ART</i>
	6-4-19		2 M. Messrs. O.C. brother died at HAMOR. Monthly posted to 82.07 W. (L) from R.C.H.A. Bde	<i>ART</i>
	7-4-19		Instructions re-equipment of Workshop cancelled. Reloaded at HUY & brought back to	<i>ART</i>
	8-4-19		Workshop & ton of equipment	<i>ART</i>
	9-4-19		Received instructions to hand in to I.C.S. at CINEY. Completed handing in of all machinery	<i>ART</i>
	10-4-19		Stores & tools.	
	11-4-19		Visited Corps HQ. at JODOIGNE. Paid Personnel of 81. 82. & 83 Workshops.	<i>ART</i>
	12-4-19		Workshop has ceased to function except for Inspection duties only.	
	13-4-19		Loaded in lorries to Corps H.T. Coy for return to 4th Army H.T. Coy. as these	<i>ART</i>
	14-4-19		lorries are Imperial property.	
	15-4-19		Have been authorized to return all married men with dependants in England	<i>ART</i>
	16-4-19		on ordinary leave to report at expiration to SEAFORD for return to CANADA.	
	17-4-19		Paid 81. 82 & 83 Workshops final pay. till Unit reaches England.	<i>ART</i>
	18-4-19		Visited Corps HQ. Closed financial account. Received instructions to proceed on	
	19-4-19		train from JODOIGNE. 6-5-19. These Workshops had been left out of arrangement	
	20-4-19		till O.C. Workshops took the matter up. Arranged with A.M.C. & A.D.S. at JODOIGNE.	
	21-4-19		Routine office work & the completion of demobilization forms & returns prepared.	
	22-4-19		Unit now down to minimum. O.C. 82. & O.C. 83 had 2 days leave to visit Newcastle which	
	23-4-19		was first leave in France on Belgium since arriving Sept 1915.	
	24-4-19		Authority (belated) was given this month for these units to break up & disbanding parties.	
	25-4-19		Unit now standing by to proceed to England.	